

East African as well as Congo birds may safely all be called *E. n. nonnula*, while I should call Cameroon Mountain birds *E. n. elizae* Alexander like those from Fernando Po; birds from the more southern parts of Cameroon may at present be regarded as intermediates between *E. n. elizae* and *E. n. nonnula*. My Cameroon Mountain birds (all in the Bonn museum; coll. Eisentraut) are from all levels, from near sea-level (Isobi, near Bibundi) up to about 3,000 metres.

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### Albinism in Northern Rhodesian birds

by J. M. WINTERBOTTOM

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Benson (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.* 81, 1961: 146) in his list of albinistic birds from Northern Rhodesia, has overlooked that of *Euplectes hordeacea* from the Msandile (Winterbottom, *Ibis*, 1938: 276); of *Streptopelia senegalensis* from the Gwembe valley (Winterbottom, *N. Rhod. J.*, 1, 4, 1951: 30); and of *Plocepasser mahali* (Winterbottom, *N. Rhod. J.*, 1, 6, 1952: 39).

### A new race of the grebe *Podiceps chilensis* from Lake Junin, Peru

by K. E. L. SIMMONS

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The small ornamented grebe *Podiceps chilensis* Lesson, 1828, of the mainland of South America and Tierra del Fuego, is either treated as a monotypic species (e.g. Wetmore 1926; Peters 1931) or is combined with the closely related *P. rolland* Quoy and Gaimard, 1826, of the Falkland Islands (most modern authors, including Hellmayr and Conover, 1948). For various reasons, I think it preferable, both from the biological and practical point of view, to keep *P. chilensis* distinct from the much larger, isolated *P. rolland*, treating the former as a full species and the latter as a semispecies, the two together forming an incipient or "simple" super-species (Simmons 1962 and unpublished). Whatever the status given to *P. chilensis*, it is invariably treated as a monotypic form, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Recently, however, while engaged in a survey of the Podicipitidae, I concluded that this grebe was polytypic. The present note gives formal taxonomic designation of a new race of *P. chilensis*, leaving consideration of the biological implications of the discovery for treatment elsewhere. The examination of skins was undertaken in the Bird Room of the British Museum (Natural History) by kind permission of the Director. I am indebted to the staff of the Bird Room for facilities.

Part of my work on the Podicipitidae involved making simple standard measurements for interspecific comparisons. Ten specimens (five male and five female if possible) of any one species were selected. While obtaining the first series of values for *P. chilensis*, I found one specimen, a female collected at Lake Junin (Peru) in May 1890, to be unusually large in comparison with the rest of the sample: 3 mm. greater in length of tarsus, 5 mm. in length of bill and 1 mm. in depth of bill. Morrison (1939) had already remarked that nine specimens of *P. chilensis* from Junin averaged longer in the wing than seven from Uruquay and Argentina, but he found

the British Museum series inconclusive. In all, five specimens from Lake Junin were available to me and these were compared with samples of *P. chilensis* from elsewhere in South America, viz. <sup>1</sup> ten specimens from the "South" (Tierra del Fuego, Straits of Magellan, southern Chile and Patagonia); <sup>2</sup> ten specimens from "Central, east" (Buenos Aires province, Argentina); <sup>3</sup> ten specimens from "Central, west" (central Chile, including birds near the type locality of the species), and <sup>4</sup> "North" (Bolivia and Peru excluding Lake Junin). The results are given in Table 1. On the evidence, the Lake Junin population of *P. chilensis* seems sufficiently distinct to warrant subspecific rank and I, therefore, have pleasure in naming it after Alastair Morrison, collector of the type specimen, in tribute to his work on the birds of Lake Junin.

*Podiceps chilensis morrisoni* subsp. nov.

*Diagnosis:* In average size of tarsus, bill and wing, Lake Junin birds are larger than any of the other four populations of *P. chilensis* measured (see Tables 1 and 2). Taking tarsal-length as an indication of overall body-size, the Junin birds reverse the apparent trend of a decrease in body-size from south to north shown by the other populations, following Bergmann's rule.

*Distribution:* Confined to Lake Junin, Peru, on the periphery of the range of the species.

*Type:* Male (Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1946. 49. 64), collected by A. Morrison on 5th April 1938. Data from original label: testes, c. 7 mm.; bill, black; feet, outside black, inside greyish.

*Measurements:* tarsus, 39 mm.; bill, 24 mm. (length), 10 mm. (depth); wing, 114 mm. The specimen is in worn nuptial plumage, in the first stages towards eclipse. The black parts of the plumage are less intensely black than in full nuptial garb, those of the head and neck having a decided brown tinge and those of the upper breast and upper parts being edged with golden-brown. The elongated black and white feathers of the head ornamentation are somewhat reduced. Two females collected at the same time as the type by Morrison show even more signs of oncoming eclipse, and a male is in similar plumage to the type but is in full wing-moult. A female collected in May 1890 is in full eclipse plumage.

*Comments:* Measurements of *P. c. morrisoni* and of the nominate race *chilensis* are given in Table 2. It seems best at present to treat all but the Lake Junin birds as belonging to the nominate race. Northern birds (excluding the Junin population) may well have a smaller bill than all other populations and a longer wing than all but Lake Junin birds. However, the sample is inconclusive, being small, old and in poor condition; further examination of better material is needed. Hellmayr and Conover (1948) state that birds from Peru and Bolivia average slightly but insignificantly *larger* than birds from elsewhere (no details given). It is possible that they included measurements of the large Junin birds in their sample.

The existence of an endemic race of *P. chilensis* on Lake Junin is of considerable interest in view of the presence of an endemic species, *P. taczanowskii*, there also, and throws light on the possible trends in the derivation of the other, even more distinctive forms of grebes of the same

sub-group as *P. chilensis*, namely *P. rolland*, confined to the Falkland Islands, and especially *P. micropterus*, confined to the Titicaca basin (Simmons 1962 and unpublished).

TABLE I  
Measurements (mean and range in mm.) of some populations  
of *Podiceps chilensis*

	<i>tarsus</i>	<i>bill-length</i>	<i>bill-depth</i>	<i>wing</i>
( <sup>1</sup> ) South*	37.8 (35-42)	19.2 (18-23)	9.3 (8-9)	108.2 (102-116)
( <sup>2</sup> ) Central* east	37.4 (35-41)	20.2 (17-23)	9.5 (8-12)	102.2 (97-111)
( <sup>3</sup> ) Central west	36.8 (35-38)	19.8 (17-23)	9.7 (9-10)	106.1 (103-110)
( <sup>4</sup> ) North	36.8 (35-39)	17.4 (17-19)	8.8 (8-10)	110.2 (109-111)
( <sup>5</sup> ) Lake Junin*	39.4 (37-41)	23.0 (20-25)	10.5 (10-11)	113.2 (110-115)

Notes: (<sup>1</sup>) For definition of localities see text.

(<sup>2</sup>) An asterisk indicates an equal or nearly equal distribution of the sexes among the sample; samples unmarked are composed largely of unsexed specimens.

(<sup>3</sup>) Measurements are to the nearest millimetre.

(<sup>4</sup>) "Tarsus" = diagonal from the middle of the hind part of the joint between tibiotarsus and tarso-metatarsus to the end of tarso-metatarsus; "bill-length" = chord of exposed culmen (bill from feathers); "bill-depth" = depth at base of bill, behind nostrils; "wing" = distance from carpal joint to end of longest primary (wing flattened).

TABLE II  
Measurements (mean only in mm.) of (1) nominate *P. chilensis*  
and (2) *P. c. morrisoni* (Lake Junin)

	<i>tarsus</i>	<i>bill-length</i>	<i>bill-depth</i>	<i>wing</i>
( <sup>1</sup> ) <i>P. c. chilensis</i>	37.3	19.4	9.4	106.2
( <sup>2</sup> ) <i>P. c. morrisoni</i>	39.4	23.0	10.5	113.2

Notes: (<sup>1</sup>) Mean values for the nominate race are based on the measurements of 35 specimens from the first four localities listed in Table I.

(<sup>2</sup>) If the figures for northern birds are discarded from the nominate sample (see text) the mean values become 37.3, 19.7, 9.5 and 105.4 respectively.

#### References:

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